



Rotary International  
Distrikt 1860



# The Rarieda / Kenya Districtproject



## The humanitarian relief project in Rarieda / Kenya

The relief project of Rotary District 1860 in Rarieda / Kenya, one of the first Future Vision projects, is a prime example for modern development cooperation and effectiveness of Global Grant projects. Already after one year, astonishing successes could be achieved.

This lighthouse project, originally a club project of the RC Neunkirchen/Saar and meanwhile raised to a district project, was started in August 2011 in the west of Kenya. In this process a community (Central Uyoma) with 36 villages, 3500 households and 12 000 people in the district of Rarieda was 'adopted'. The relief measures concentrated on the containment of diseases, medical care, well-aimed support of needy families, education in schools, as well as construction of self-supply of the families.

The district Rarieda, located at Lake Victoria, belongs to the poorest regions of Kenya. 70 % of the people have less than 1 \$ available per day and thus live beneath the poverty line. The HIV- and Malaria rates are the highest within the country. 24 % of the people are infected with HIV. 35 % of the children and juveniles are orphans. The people are very needy and weakened through illnesses.

## The project partners

These relief services are organized and executed together with the rotarian partner club Nairo- bi Utumi-shi in Kenya's capital, the Rotary Foundation, the Rotary Deutschland Gemeindienst e.V. (RDG), as well as the small relief organization 'RAFIKI wa maendeleo' located in the region.

This charitable relief organization with 35 employees has been resident on site since 2003 and concentrates its efforts there on the sectors education, health, and economical independence of the families.

A school building, training gardens and a small administration building are located on own grounds. This relief organization was founded by Michele Ostertag, a women from Switzerland who has been living in Kenya for several years. RAFIKI works with lowest administrative costs



## Structure and goals of the project

The Global Grant Project is based on its own basic philosophies. This way the population, the village communities, the village elders, and the Kenyan authorities are actively involved. The herewith resulting commitment of the people and the developing momentum enable active participation and sustainable change. Furthermore disease prevention, instead of the treatment of ill people, is emphasized. The project primarily aims at strengthening, education and looking after women and girls. They mostly form the backbone of village ecology. ‚Helping people to help themselves‘ is the goal. Poverty is battled with education, care and well-aimed delivery of crop and livestock to build self-sufficiency. In this course the supported families must provide commitment and take over responsibility.



At the beginning of this project, 42 mostly local employees were hired. A large part of these employees were chosen from the population. This project team took over the support of the 3500 families, more than 12.000 inhabitants and of 2 infirmaries. Both infirmaries are being renovated and built-up operational. The personnel of the infirmaries are being educated. 4800 children and juveniles are educated in health care, contraception and hygiene in schools and orphanages and are examined regularly. 800 particularly needy families receive crop, beehives, goats and chicken, well-aimed education and support during the construction of self-sufficiency.



During its 2-year term, the running Global Grant Project has a total volume of considerable , 440.000 \$. The rotarian share is 261.000 \$ plus special payments of over 35.000 \$. The continuation of this project as a district project is being prepared and shall ensure long-term secure of continuity and sustainability of the measures executed so far.

**Governor elect Klaus Willimczik is convinced:** „The elevation of the original club-project to a district-project is an important step for securing our so-far achieved successes. The foundation of this lighthouse project establishes on active involvement of the population from the beginning, the holistic structure, the broad employee-basis of the Rotary/Rafiki teams and the strong focusing on children, juveniles and women. These factors guarantee a high sustainability. The District 1860 will provide flanking support for this project through further measures.“



## Results after one year

After a one-year term project manager Michael Finkler is exceedingly satisfied. The cooperation with the small and on-site resident relief organization RAFIKI, which is lead by rotarian Michele Ostertag, is very efficient and reliable. Regular stays and operational actions of involved rotarians in the aided region are helpful and secure project success. „So far, all problems could be solved together“ states Axel von Bierbrauer, medical leader of the project.

Meanwhile, 3 motorcycles, 37 bicycles and one 4-wheel-drive cross-country vehicle were delivered. The infirmaries were renovated. Beehives, goats and chickens, as well as numerous crop were provided for the families. Education to become seamstresses, carpenters and masons were conducted. 3500 families are visited and supported on a regular basis. The health education at 16 schools and 5 orphanages is conducted as planned. The results of these activities are astonishing.

These employees are supported by Community Health Committees. Thereby, the acceptance in the population, as well as the efficiency of the measures are enhanced. The partner organization RAFIKI educates the health officials, supervises the progress and supports in all necessary areas. Rotarians support the education.

In the meantime, the number of Malaria infections, Diarrheal diseases and mother-/child deaths are noticeably decreasing. The necessity of Malaria treatment for children und 5 years could be reduced by 82% and by 68% during pregnancy. The vaccinations of children increased by 88 %. In the meantime, 81 % of the households have constructed their toilet facilities in a distance from the houses. Now 75 % of pregnant women participate in precaution at the infirmaries.

After the repair of infirmaries, the number of supported births increased by 87 %. The number of teenage pregnancies decreased by considerable 29 % in the first 3 quarters. The teachers of supported schools confirm the increasing school attendance and noticeable behavior changes. Children and juveniles develop self-initiative and transport their knowledge to their families and villages. Because of the increased self-sufficiency, 70 % of the supported households could reduce the cost of market purchases. 48 % of the families can eat three meals per day. Meanwhile, 64 % of the children record a normal weight.



## The Rarieda/Kenia project as district project

„Starting as a club project and co-sponsored by several clubs, the Rarieda project is an admirable large-scale project, worth copying. High personal commitment of the acting people and the support through TRF and RDG formed the solid foundation for an enthusiastic implementation of this flagship project. The district 1860 promotes the continuation of this intent and seamlessly follows this club project with a district project. With this procedure the important sustainability is guaranteed through continuity“ states Dieter Scheid, the grant commissioner of District 1860.

**Gerd Gross, the foundation commissioner of District 1860 especially underlines the effect as reference project:** *„This hear addressed original project, in connection with the planned continuation as district project, meanwhile functions as a ‚showcase project‘ for all German districts and it is to be hoped, that it will find successors in multiple expressions.“*

A small district-project-team, under the leadership of Michael Finkler and Axel von Bierbrauer, carries the responsibility for implementation of the current Global Grant project, as well as the planning of long-term measures. Support District 1860 and the involved clubs in this large and demanding relief project. Every donation is welcome. Active support is especially possible through medical and technical personnel.

## Also helpers need help!

**Donations can be addressed to Rotary Deutschland Gemeindienst e.V. The bank details are:**

Rotary Deutschland Gemeindienst e.V.

Bank: Deutsche Bank AG

Kto.Nr: 394120000

BLZ: 300 700 10

Account No.: 394120000 Bank Code: 300 700 10

Purpose: Rarieda relief project / Club number / 2063 / Last name / First name

With this information, donations are automatically assigned to the club and the district.





## The project managers and points of contact

### Project management

Michael Finkler  
finkler@abs-ag.de  
0631/ 303 47 – 0



### Medical project management

Prof. Dr. med. Axel von Bierbrauer  
a.von.bierbrauer@t-online.de  
0174 / 976 7551



### Grant commissioner district 1860

Dr. Dieter Scheid  
dieter.scheid@scheid-gewuerze.de  
06836 / 46-0

### Foundation commissioner district 1860

Gerd Groß  
gross-saarbruecken@t-online.de  
0681 / 375829